

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 2012

Dear High School Principal and Art Faculty:

I am pleased to invite your students to participate in the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Congressional Art Competition.

From April 26–May 17, 2012, I will be sponsoring this annual art competition and exhibition for high school students from Maryland's Eighth Congressional District at VisArts at Rockville. Each year, approximately 90 of the hundreds of submitted artworks are selected by jurors for inclusion in the exhibition. The winning entry will be displayed for one year in the United States Capitol alongside artwork from every congressional district across the country. In addition, the runners-up will have their work displayed in my congressional offices. **I hope that you will encourage your students to participate.** All students who reside in or attend school in Maryland's Eighth Congressional District are eligible to submit entries.

Participating students must submit the enclosed "Student Participation/Release Form." This form needs to be completed and signed by the student and a faculty member and faxed to my Rockville office at (301) 424-5992 or emailed to [Karen.McManus@mail.house.gov](mailto:Karen.McManus@mail.house.gov) by **Friday, April 13, 2012.** **The original of this form must be affixed to the back of the artwork when it is delivered to VisArts.** **Any student submitting his/her form after the April 13<sup>th</sup> deadline may be precluded from participating in the competition.** Artwork that is selected for inclusion in the exhibition will hang at VisArts **until May 17th** and **cannot** be released earlier.

The guidelines for suitability and framing are enclosed. Please read the material carefully, as both VisArts and the U.S. Capitol have specific requirements for hanging artwork. Information and forms are available on my website at [www.vanhollen.house.gov](http://www.vanhollen.house.gov).

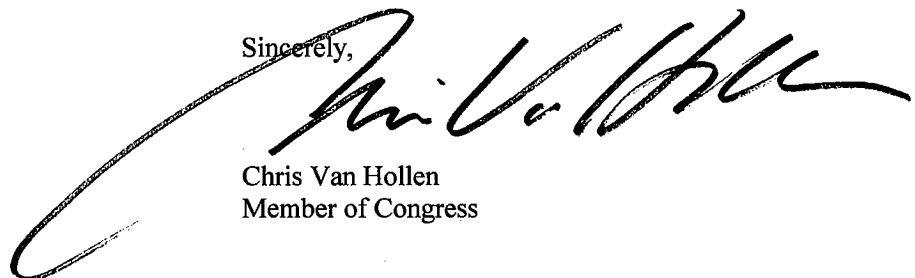
Artwork should be delivered to VisArts (located at 155 Gibbs Street in Rockville) on the following days:

- \*Friday, April 20: 2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- \*Saturday, April 21: 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m..

I will be hosting an **Arts Celebration and Awards Reception** to highlight the importance of arts education in high school, showcase the exhibition, honor all participants and announce awards at VisArts on **Monday, April 30, 2012 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.** I hope that all participants and their families, teachers, principals and friends will attend to view this unique display of the talents of the Eighth District's young artists. I look forward to seeing you there.

If you have any questions, please contact my Congressional Art Competition Coordinator, Linda Pepper, at (301) 657-8650 or at [pepper461@aol.com](mailto:pepper461@aol.com) or Karen McManus in my Rockville office at (301) 424-3501 or at [Karen.McManus@mail.house.gov](mailto:Karen.McManus@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen  
Member of Congress